NORTH FLORIDA

Until the first of September your fertilizer program should be with a good complete fertilizer such as 4-7-5, 4-8-8, or even a 2-8-8, all with 20% or better organic material. A high potash fertilizer produces more blossoms.

Starting in September you should go gradually to an 0-14-10 fertilizer in order to harden the plant for the coming cold weather.

You still should be on the lookout for insects and fungus. With all the rains during this season more often spraying will be necessary for control. There is a new booklet out by Lewis S. Maxwell called "Handbook of Florida Insects and Their Control", which will help you identify the pest that is causing your problem. The booklet has pictures on almost all pages and also lists the control necessary. If your garden supply dealer does not have a copy you can obtain one from "The Great Outdoors Assn., 4747 28th Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida. The cost is $1.00.

You should start thinking about protection from the cold for your plants. High banking with dirt is about the best measure but even that is not positive against the severe cold we have had the last couple of years. Check with your garden supply dealer for more information in your particular area.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Hibiscus are sun-loving plants. They should be planted where they will get at least 75 percent sun each day. The soil should be well drained in consistancy. Hibiscus can't stand wet feet for very long. For best results the pH should be 5.5 to 6.5.

With the heavy rains we are having now it is best to fertilize with a litte often rather than heavy applications two or three times a year. A lot of our members are trying the liquid fertilizers such

as "Sure-Grow" as a leaf spray and conditioner. They use it every ten days or so, and are getting good results.

The booklet mentioned in the North Florida section is a good bet. The pictures are very good and the control for each is listed. It would pay to get a copy.

SOUTH FLORIDA

Insects! Scale! Fungus! Still keep after them as they are always there to get the upper hand if you don't. Check with your local garden supply or AHS commercial nurseryman for help if you need it. Also the new booklet listed in the North Florida section will be good here too. In fact the same insects hit us all over the state.

Fertilizer of 4-7-5 with 20% organic material is a must during the rainy season. The rain will wash fertilizer down past the roots rather fast so it will have to be used more often. Try the new nutritional sprays along with your regular program.

Cold weather isn't so much of a problem here as it is in the north. Be careful of frost later however.

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Thank God for the Hibiscus
One of His loveliest creations.

To work with it fills our lives with happiness,
And it opens our eyes with wonder and tells
Us of His invinite portrayal of detail and love.

The H.S. Moles Nursery
240 Richland Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
(Address 432 Richland Avenue)

HIBISCUS SUITABLE FOR THE NORTH GULF COAST